The Cradle of the Sea

Chapter 5

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CREAK CREAK CREAK CREAK CREAK

CRADLE...?

CREAK CREAK CREAK CREAK CREAK

Chapter 5: Departure

TING

CREAK

TING

TING

TING

HUH ...?

SFX: FLASH

TING

WHAT...

IS THAT...?

AAAAAAAH!

SFX: BAFWOOOOOM

Chapter 5: Departure

SHIVER

?!

SHIVER

ドン

SFX: BABOOOOM

I...

THOUGHT I HEARD A REALLY LOUD NOISE JUST NOW. FROM INSIDE.

NEAL?

WHAT'S GOING ON? IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE ENGINE ROOM?

AGAIN?!

SFX: THUD

BUT WE FIXED IT!

CREAK CREAK CREAK

PING

GASP

TCHI

CLANK

SFX: BOOM

DASH

CRACK

CREAK CREAK CREAK

CREAK CREAK CREAK

IT'S UNDER TOO MUCH PRESSURE!

CREAK CREAK CREAK

AND YOU, ENGINE BOY!

GET MOVING!

HEY! YOU!

HURRY UP AND COME HERE! TAKE THIS BRAT OFF ME!

THRUST

IF WE DON'T TAKE CARE OF IT QUICK THE WHOLE THING WILL EXPLODE!

THAT SOUND IT'S MAKING.

IT MEANS THERE'S WATER IN THE PIPES.

GRAB

THAT WATER'S THE REASON THE PIPE KEEPS BLOWING OUT LIKE THAT.

WE NEED TO OPEN UP THE PIPE THAT EXPLODED, ADD A DRAINCOCK, AND DRAW OUT THE WATER.

AH... UM, WHAT DO YOU NEED ME TO DO?

AH, UH... OKAY...

SPIN

WE'LL HAVE TO PUT A TEMPORARY PIPE IN PLACE OF THE DAMAGED ONE.

AFTER THAT,

FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS... GOT IT?

YES...!

SFX: FLOP

DON'T WORRY.

Put those on.

I'LL HELP YOU.

CLICK

WOAH!

SFX: FWOOOSH

?!

TONY?!

YES SIR!

STOWAWAYS! MARTY! MAY-LOVE! TELL THE CAPTIAN!

SOME-BODY'S DOWN THERE!

?!

SFX: CLATTER X2

TING

OPEN THE DRAINCOCK ON THAT CYL-INDER ALL THE WAY!

SFX: PSSSSSH

SFX: FWSSSH

GREAK

SFX: PSSSH

OKAY!

WHACK

CLANK

TING

TING

CLANK

THE SOUND'S GETTING QUIETER ...

CREAK CREAK CREAK

!

IT'S MUCH EASIER THAN EARLIER!

SFX: FWOOSH

SFX: FWOOSH

NOW OPEN UP ONE MORE BOLT WHERE THE DAMAGE IS.

SFX: THRUST

OPEN THE STEAM VALVE ALL THE WAY! HURRY!

IT'S OFF!

THE PRESSURE'S ONLY GONE DOWN A LITTLE. IF WE TRY TO FORCE IT, THE WHOLE THING'S GOING TO...

CLANG

CLANG

GOT IT!

CLATTER

TUG

TUG

TUG

SFX: TUG, CREEEEEEAAAAK

IT'S OPEN!

!!

SFX: SPIN

OKAY!

GRIP

CLANG

CREAK

SFX: TRUNDLE

SFX: TRUNDLE X2

KRR

CLUNG
CLUNG
CLUNG

SFX: CHANG X2

SFX: CREAK X4

SFX: TRUNDLE X2, CLANG X2

IT'S...
MOVING!

SFX: VWOOM VWOOM VWOOM

I...

SLIP

SFX: FLOP

THANK GOD...

I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE END...

SPIN

NEXT TIME, MAKE SURE...

YOU'VE MAINTE-NANCED IT PROPERLY BEFORE YOU SET OFF.

IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A BAD...

LISTEN WELL TO WHAT IT TELLS YOU.

?!

ENGINE...

CRADLE OF THE SEA
THE ENGINE OF
THE MASTERPIECE
MORRIS SMYR

CRADLE...?

IS IT ALL A COINCI-DENCE...?

WHY...

IS THAT STAMPED HERE...?

YOU THERE!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE?!

TELL US YOUR NAMES!

ARE YOU STOW-AWAYS?

TONY?!

WHERE ARE YOU? ARE YOU OKAY?!

バキ

ボキ

SFX: CRICK X2

AND I'M THE ONLY REASON YOUR ENGINE IS STILL WORKING.

CLANG

CLONG

I AM LOUIS MAC FARREN.

SFX: CLANG X3

CREAK

CLANG

CLANG

CLANG

CLICK

WHERE'S TONY?!

HE CHANGED THE GEARS WITHOUT HAVING TO LOOK?! HE HAS GOOD EARS!

YOU SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THIS ENGINE WELL.

AND HE'S SUCH A LIGHT TOUCH WITH THEM, AS WELL...

YOU... WOULD YOU LIKE A POSITION AS ENGINEER ON THIS SHIP?

CLANG

CLANG

CLANG

CHUNK

WHAT?! CAPTAIN, WHAT ARE YOU—?!

!

WE HAVE A LACK OF ENGI-NEERS.

WE'LL PAY YOU, OF COURSE. AND YOU WON'T FIND THE WORKING CONDITIONS POOR.

HUG

CRADLE OF THE SEA
THE ENGINE OF
THE MASTERPIECE BY
MORRIS SMYTH

SFX: POOMF

VERY WELL.

BUT I HAVE ONE CONDITION.

BUT IF YOU WANT TO BE SAVED, YOU NEED TO ACT LIKE A BOY.

I'VE CHANGED MY MIND.

SFX: TUG

YOU LET MY BROTHERS STAY ON THIS SHIP AS WELL!

THAT'S RI-DICULOUS!

SFX: CREAK, CREAK, CREEAAAK

CREAK

WELL THEN, WE'LL DISEMBARK. IT'S YOUR ENGINE THAT WILL PAY THE PRICE.

CLAANG

BUT LETTING TWO MORE STOWAWAYS ON BOARD? IT'S TOO LAX! THE SHIP HAS RULES!

IT'S ONE THING TO BE SHORT ON ENGINEERS,

MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHERE'S TONY?!

AH... HUH?

ARE YOU STUPID? IF YOU DO THAT THE SHIP WON'T MOVE AT ALL.

OVER HERE ...

WOBBLE

WE CAN MOVE THE ENGINE OURSELVES!

AH... I'M...

STOMP

TONY!

SFX: LEAP

HEY!

SFX: THUMP

HANG IN THERE!

HE'S BEEN ALONE ALL THIS TIME...

UH, I'LL HELP MY BROTHER INSTEAD OF HIM!

I'...

CAP-TAIN!

HURRY!

SO PLEASE, RIGHT NOW...

(FOOTNOTE: SHE STARTS OFF SAYING THE MORE FEMININE "WATASHI," AND THEN SWITCHES TO THE MALE "BOKU")

HE...

WON'T YOU COME TAKE THIS CHILD?

IS A FRIEND ...

OF THOSE ON THIS SHIP, IS HE NOT?!

AND WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO IF TONY DIES?!

Y, YEAH! IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THEY'RE STOW-AWAYS!

CAPTAIN! IT'S JUST AS HE SAYS! ARE YOU PLANNING TO JUST TOSS TONY ASIDE?!

SFX: ROAR

BLINK

BLINK

SFX: FWIP

BE SILE !

SO TELL ME, BOY.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THAT CHILD?

A VOYAGE LIKE THIS IS DAN-GEROUS.

!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM! I WILL.

I...

PROMISE.

VERY WELL. I'LL TAKE YOU ALL ON, THEN.

WELCOME TO MY SHIP, *LADY OF THE SEA.*

IF WE RE-FUSED AT A TIME LIKE THIS, THE SAILORS WOULD MUTINY...

CAPTAIN! WHY?

TONY!

ALL RIGHT! YOU'RE THE BEST, CAP-TAIN! WE KNEW YOU'D COME THROUGH!

SFX: CLATTER

ALL HANDS ON DECK!

YOUR SHIFT HAS STARTED!

NOW! THE TIME FOR TALK IS OVER.

AH... OKAY...

WE'RE NOT NEEDED HERE, SO HURRY UP TOP WITH US!

GRIN

THANKS A LOT FOR SAVING TONY, BOY! AND YOU, CHILD.

SFX: POOMPH

?!

EXCUSE ME!

THANK YOU SO MUCH...

TRUNDLE

Ah.

I'LL BE STAYING HERE.

TRUNDLE

NO NEED TO THANK ME...

GO UP AND GET YOUR ORDERS.

...

OKAY...

MONICA...

ON A SHIP!

WE'RE...

ARE WE...

GONNA FIND PAPA?

YEAH.

SO PLEASE GIVE IT YOUR ALL WHILE WE'RE ON BOARD!

WE WILL!

PRETTY TOUGH, BUT...

IT MIGHT GET...

SQUEEZE

SEARCH FOR HIM TOGETHER. OKAY?

WE'LL...

WE'LL GO MEET...
YOUR FATHER TOGETHER.

The Daltons' voices echoed through the room.

"I lost my temper at Evan again. The more he gets out of his cradle, the more I want to shove him back in it."

"Don't talk like that. You're his mother now, aren't you?"

"I'm only taking care of him because of his inheritance. I hate it."

"Then why don't we just get a nanny?"

"I already asked you to find him one, didn't I?! Honestly!"

The conversation slowly faded from hearing.

Evan returned to the window, waiting for someone he could never forget.

"I see, so she wasn't your daughter at all, Dr. Wilbur. Well, that's a right mess I've caused, then."

"No, not at all."

"What?" The young man was surprised to see what appeared to be a faint smile appearing on the old doctor's usually austere face. "Did something good happen, Doctor?" he asked.

He listened for a while, but the Doctor didn't respond, staying silent until he had finished cutting the leather strap he was holding.

"Now, no more time for talk. Here's the thing you wanted so badly."

"You're as brusque with people as always, Doctor."

"It's only because I thought this was something you wanted to use straight away." So saying, he stretched out his artificial leg.

"Since you're so enthusiastic about it, I will," the young man said, standing to go.

"By the way..."

"?"

"If you ever happen to see anyone who looks like my daughter again, please tell me. No matter how small the likeness." The aged doctor, who was usually so gloomy about the search for his daughter, sounded slightly cheerful.

"Any time," the young man said, the corners of his mouth raising slightly.

Cradle of the Sea
Their Thoughts at the Time, Chapter 3

The inside of the bag was pitch black. Even though he had shouted "No," Evan had still ended up stuffed inside it. He sniffled a little, then started to cry, snot dripping from his nose.

As the bag started to bounce around, he tried to stop his body from moving by grabbing at the paper packages inside it, tearing them as he did so.

Apples, a candy jar, and a bag of biscuits revealed themselves, as well as a few of the scones he had wanted to eat so badly earlier...

He rubbed his eyes and grabbed at them. Without saying a word, he started to gobble one up. Before he knew it, his tears stopped and he begin to smile.

Once he was finished eating, he licked off his hands and started on the next. Focusing on the treats before his eyes, Evan took them all in hand.

It would only be a little longer until Monica let him out. He just had to be patient until then.

Cradle of the Sea
Their Thoughts at the Time, Chapter 4

In a certain bar, the sailors wait for their next voyage to start... They drink, and drink, and drink...

"Hey, Tony. Enough already. You can put that stuff down until we get back on board...," said the youth next to Tony in an indistinct voice.

"No way. There's no other engineer on that ship save me!"

"Don't you think that's too much to ask of you anyway, Tony?"

"So you're saying I should just abandon everyone?"

"You're gonna die...."

The other sailors in the bar looked over.

"Do you think Tony's gonna be okay...?"

"He just stays up all night reading. I don't think he's getting enough sleep."

"Good luck! Good luck!"

"Sorry..., Sorry...! But we'll be back on the ocean soon anyway!"

(Chew chew chew)

"Don't you think you've had enough to eat already?"

"I'm just trying to stop you from over-indulging, since you have no self-control..."

"That's right, we're friends after all..."

The crew's true worry, the fact that the time for their departure was getting ever closer, went unsaid.

Cradle of the Sea
Their Thoughts at the Time, Chapter 5

The day after Lady of the Sea departs, a certain drunkard and a woman he was with were talking.

"The dress I lent you is caked with mud... And you say your niece ran away?"

"I was jus' gonna sell h'r off, too... G'mme more booze..."

"I feel glad for poor Monica, managing to escape from a good-for-nothing like you..."

At that time, a young man carrying artificial legs came by, asking about a youth who had been a sailor before he was injured.

"What?! You're telling me he went aboard a ship in his condition?"

That's right. I've heard the ship he's on was running really low on engineers."

"He should have at least taken these with him..."

Afterword

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR BUYING THE FIRST VOLUME OF CRADLE OF THE SEA! HOW WAS IT? IF YOU ENJOYED IT, I'LL BE VERY PLEASED.

SINCE YOU'VE MADE IT ALL THE WAY TO THE END, I'LL SAY A LITTLE ABOUT MYSELF.

BEFORE I STARTED THIS MANGA, I WORKED AT A SYSTEMS CORPORATION. WHEN I DIDN'T HAVE WORK, I LIKED TO DRAW, BUT I THOUGHT THERE WERE FAR TOO MANY OBSTACLES ON EITHER SIDE OF ME FOR ME TO MAKE A LIVING AS A MANGA ARTIST.

AT THE BEGINNING, IT WAS FUN, BUT SOON I FELT LIKE I WAS STARING AT A WALL WITH TEARS IN MY EYES. BECAUSE I JUST STARTED OUT WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT WHAT I WOULD NEED TO LEARN, I STARTED WITH A 4B PENCIL (NOTE: A VERY SOFT KIND OF PENCIL LEAD), AND EVEN NOW I CAN'T USE A PEN PROPERLY...

EVEN THOUGH I APPROACHED IT BADLY, A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE HELPED ME.

MY ALWAYS PATIENT, REASSURING SUPERVISOR.

MY SISTER, WHO HELPED ME FROM THE TIME I WAS WORKING ON THE MANUSCRIPT UNTIL THE VERY END.

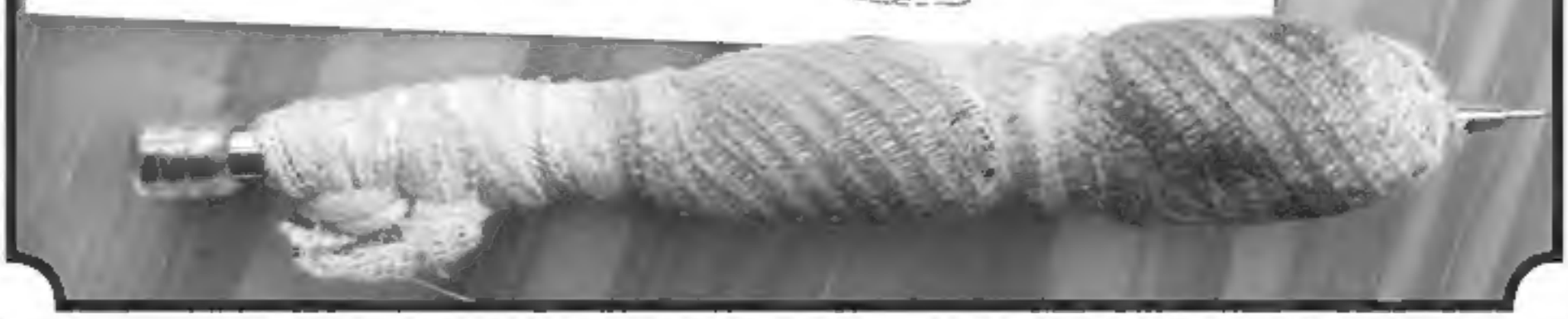
MY FAMILY, WHO HELPED ME WITH EXPENSES, AND MY FRIENDS, WHO ALWAYS CHEERED ME ON.

IT'S ONLY BECAUSE OF ALL YOUR HELP THAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE IT THIS FAR.

FROM NOW ON, I'M GOING TO DO MY BEST TO KEEP ON GOING!

HERE AT THE END, I'D LIKE TO JUST SINCERELY THANK EVERYONE WHO HELPED ME UP THROUGH PUBLICATION ONE MORE TIME.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

M. N



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